KEG RIVER PUBLIC INPUT

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SUMMARY NO. 1

ALBERTA ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

RESOURCE EVALUATION AND PLANNING

85-2852/

KEG RIVER OPEN HOUSE

November 14, 1984

- SUMMARY OF CONCERNS -

Keg River Planning Area

ENR Technical Report Number: T/75
International Standard Book Number: 0-86499-199-1

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Edmonton, Alberta

Other titles on the same topic include:

I/81 Let's Talk About The Keg River

ISBN 0-86499-178-9

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1. INTRODUCTION

An open house was held November 14, 1984 in Keg River to discuss the Keg River Integrated Resource Plan. Because the plan was recently initiated, the open house served as an excellent forum to solicit concerns of local residents and groups.

The open house was held at the Keg River Community Hall from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Appendix 1 lists all these who registered.

Three panel displays showed information on the planning area (i.e. location and resource inventory), integrated resource management, planning and public involvement. A highlight of the display was comparative aerial photographs of the Keg River community from 1949 and 1981. In that period there was a 600 per cent increase in land cleared for agriculture. Viewers found this very interesting.

Planning team members are Alberta Agriculture, and the following Alberta Energy and Natural Resources divisions: Alberta Forest Service, Public Lands, Fish and Wildlife and the Resource Evaluation and Planning (REAP, Resource Planning Branch). They were on hand to answer questions and discuss local concerns. As well, REAP's Resource Evaluation Branch was represented by two staff members who took part in the resource inventory of the planning area. The Peace River Regional Resource Management Committee was represented by John Brownlee, Regional Resource Co-ordinator.

Many concerns were raised. Many of these concerns will be dealt with in the plan, however, many are administrative or operational questions which must be addressed by individual agencies.

The next section of this report identifies concerns and indicates if they will be addressed in the plan. If not handled by the plan, information on how to approach specific concerns is provided.

2. CONCERNS

1. Residents of both the Keg River and Hawk Hills communities indicated that there was not enough land available for agricultural expansion. This concern has two aspects:

a) There is not enough land for sons/daughters of farmers to begin farming on. Young farmers want land near their parents to allow them to take advantage of assistance (financial, machinery and advisory) provided by the parents.

b) There is not enough land to bring new farmers into the areas, which would establish more viable farming communities.

Response:

The plan will identify additional agricultural land, based on present use capability and demand information. The exact locations of where land will be opened will be determined throughout the development of the plan. However, the actual disposition of the land will be the responsibility of Public Lands in the implementation stage of the planning process. Essentially, the plan will identify the land to be considered for disposition and Public Lands will determine how and when the land will be disposed of.

2. Young farmers should be allowed to start small and build up the operation over time.

Response:

The size of operations will be determined through the disposition process and handled by Public Lands during implementation. The plan will not identify the exact size of agricultural parcels.

3. Concern was expressed that there are no longer demand performance of residence duties on Crown lands leading to title. It was felt that while the land gets developed, the community may not and infrastructure will be delayed.

Response:

The 1984 amendments to the Public Lands Act eliminated Civilian Homestead Sales, which stipulated residence requirements. Since that time, it has become policy to waive residence requirements on Farm Development Lease with option as well.

4. Farmers were concerned about losing their grazing leases if Crown land used for grazing is sold.

Response:

Although this possibility exists, it rarely occurs. If it is determined that grazing land is to be made available for sale, the grazing lessee would be informed well before the land was actually posted. Present use is considered in making land use decisions, and it is not the intention of the planning team to disrupt the existing land use pattern in a major way.

5. A non-farmer said that future farmland parcels should be made available to "locals" as opposed to "anyone" (public land draws).

Response:

The prime objective of the agricultural public land settlement policy is to make suitable public land available to those individuals whose present occupation is farming, or whose prime interest is to become established in farming for a living. The goal is to assist in the creation of a viable farm land base. When disposing of public land, priority is given to local farmers who require additional land for such a base.

Quite recently the Public Lands Division has been using a "draw" system to dispose of lands to new farmers. The system was based on submissions made by the general public.

6. Loss of forest land base to agriculture. Constant transfers from the Green Area does not allow management of the timber resource along the Green/Yellow Area boundary.

Response:

The planning team will take existing timber quota commitments into account throughout the development of the plan. When the plan is completed, the Green Area boundary should be more firm, simply because the agricultural expansion will be focused. This will allow confident management along the Green/Yellow Area boundary. It is not possible to say there will be no further expansion into the Green Area once the plan is completed.

7. Twin Lakes should be maintained as a recreation area, however, it should be examined for possible transfer to private control.

Response:

Although the plan will make recommendations on the best use of the recreational resource, it in no way will examine and recommend on the private versus public control issue. That is a provincial policy issue dealt with at the political level.

8. Local trappers expressed concern with both agricultural expansion and intensive forest management. They feel that posting the land for sale will result in a loss in their trapline area, and intensive forest management results in a decline in furbearer population.

Response:

The planning team will attempt to minimize the impact on any individual resource sectors. It should not, however, be implied from this that some trapline areas will not be reduced. As agriculture (cultivation) and trapping are essentially mutually exclusive land uses, both will warrant careful consideration.

9. It was recommended that Townships 97 and 98, Range 22 west of the fifth meridian be retained under Crown ownership for use by wildlife.

Response:

Examination of this area will certainly be part of our planning process for the Keg River plan. Although agriculture expansion was the initial thrust for the Keg River plan, all resource uses will be assessed and considered during the development of the plan.

10. A resident of the Hawk Hills community felt that an open house should have been held in their community.

Response:

We have recognized such a need, and are attempting to organize an open house through the Hawk Hills Agricultural Society.

11. When will the plan be completed, and at what stages will the public be consulted again?

Response:

The plan is scheduled for completion by December 31, 1985. It does not, however, mean that land suitable for agricultural expansion will be posted immediately upon completion of the plan. At that time, recommendations from the plan will be passed on to the region, and they will undertake the implementation of the plan. This will involve conducting detailed soil assessments, identification of the agricultural parcels and the corresponding infrastructure development.

While the Keg River plan is being developed, the public will likely be consulted at two more open houses.

At the open house, concerns will be solicited and there will be a follow-up report prepared and distributed.

We will keep our mailing list up to date, and we will make every effort to keep those interested in the Keg River plan well informed.

3. CONCLUSION

Many concerns discussed at the first open house were very site specific, dealing with administration of public land. For example, questions often related to land posting procedures, in terms of "how" and "who" will get the land. The plan will not address such issues. If you have any question regarding administration of public land, call the regional offices of Alberta Energy and Natural Resources at the following telephone numbers in Peace River:

Public Lands	624 - 6116
Alberta Forest Service	624 - 6221
Fish and Wildlife	624 - 6246
Resource Evaluation and Planning	624 - 6402

If you note any errors or omissions in this Summary of Concerns, please write Jim Rivait, resource planner for the Keg River Integrated Resource Plan:

9945 - 108 Street
5th Floor, Petroleum Plaza
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2G6

or telephone: 427 - 3608 (Zenith 22289 toll free)

Your co-operation in the development of the Keg River Integrated Resource Plan is greatly appreciated.

APPENDIX 1

KEG RIVER NOVEMBER 14th/1984 OPEN HOUSE

Attendance List

Dennis Halalisky
Box 4
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Phyllis Kosik
Box 85
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Bob McBain
Box 81
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

David Kosik
Box 85
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Bryan Shields
Box 833
MANNING, Alberta
TOH 2MO

Cobus Vreeling
Box 393
MANNING, Alberta
TOH 2MO

Rod Roth
Box 897
MANNING, Alberta
TOH 2MO

Trudy Rasmuson
Banner Post
Box 686
MANNING, Alberta
TOH 2MO

Brian Carnell
Box 749
HIGH LEVEL, Alberta
TOH 1ZO

Clyde Norman
Box 749
HIGH LEVEL, Alberta
TOH 1ZO

Dolores Zatko
Box 44
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Ken Batchelor
Box 45
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Mr. Mrs. G. Galandy
Box 9
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Louis Pawlowich
Box 26
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Louis Holtz
Box 72
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Garth Coulter
Box 16
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Edwin Kary
Box 564
MANNING, Alberta
TOH 2MO

C.S. Vos
Box 46
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

William Halabisky
General Delivery
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

John Yurkowski
General Delivery
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Vic Zatko
Box 44
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Annie Michalchuk
Box 21
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Adam Pawlowich
Box 26
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Len De Haan
Box 39
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

D.C. Hamelin
General Delivery
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Steve Pawlowich
Box 57
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

T.R. Sonntag
General Delivery
HOTCHKISS, Alberta
TOH 2BO

Chuck Clarke
Alta Recreation and Parks
Box 119
HIGH LEVEL, Alberta
TOH 1ZO

James McCracken
Box 57
MANNING, Alberta
TOH 2MO

Dave Milne
Box 450
BERWYN, Alberta
TOH OEO

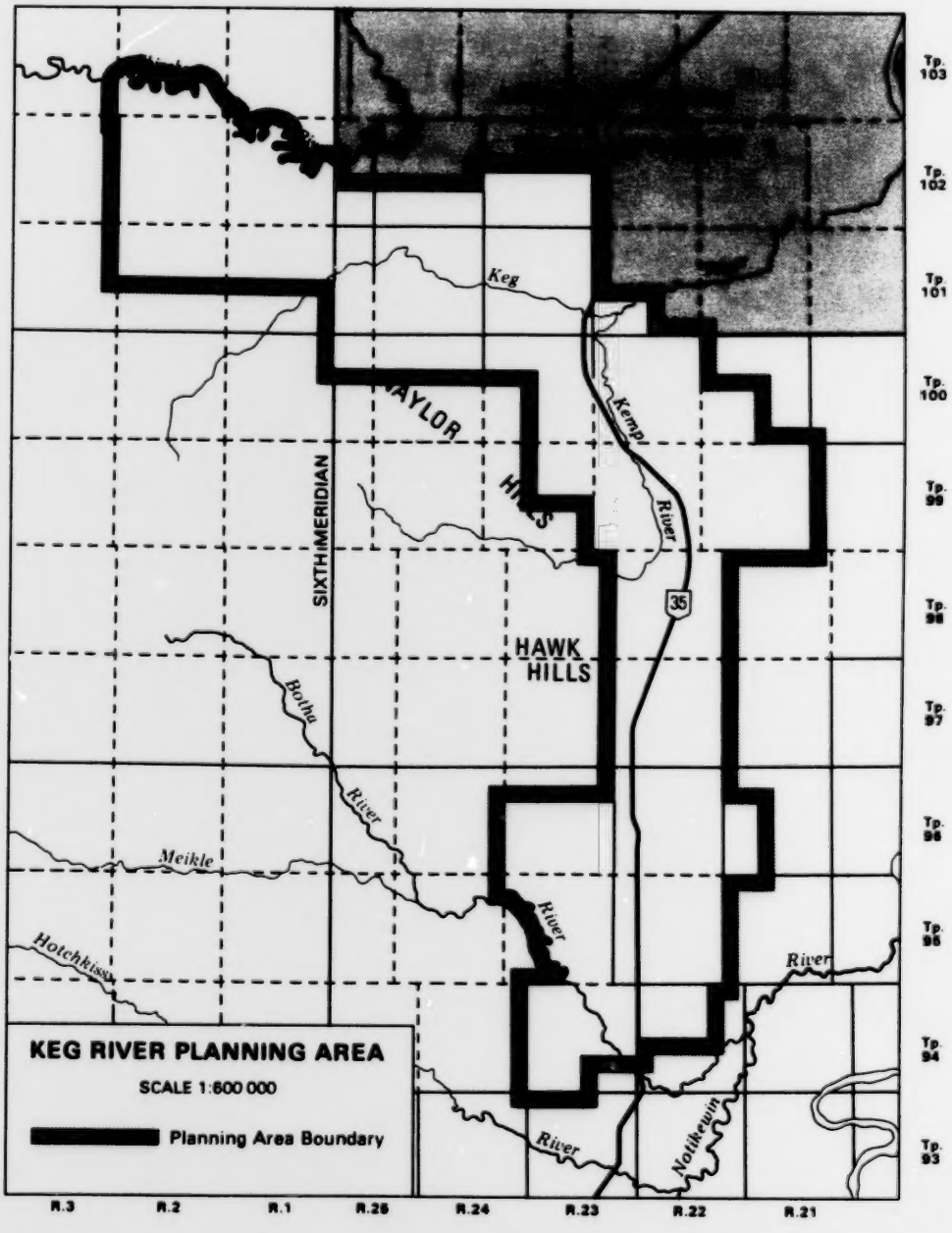
John and Sonia Clarke
Box 210
HIGH LEVEL, Alberta
TOH 1ZO

Dwaine Kosik
Box 85
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

Wayne Dzaman
Box 130
MANNING, Alberta
TOH 2MO

Anne & Henry Vos
General Delivery
KEG RIVER, Alberta
TOH 2GO

APPENDIX 2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Keg
River
SIXTH MERIDIAN
HAWK HILLS
35
Rotha
River
Meikle
River
Hotchkiss
River
River
Notikewin
R.3
R.2
R.1
R.26
R.24
R.23
R.22
R.21
KEG RIVER PLANNING AREA
SCALE 1:600 000
Planning Area Boundary